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October 24, 2007

Director Kirk Steudle  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
State Transportation Building  
425 West Ottawa Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1532

Dear Director Steudle:

I have observed with great interest the decision by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to construct a \$318,000 barrier to divert migratory turtles from crossing U.S. 31 in Muskegon County.

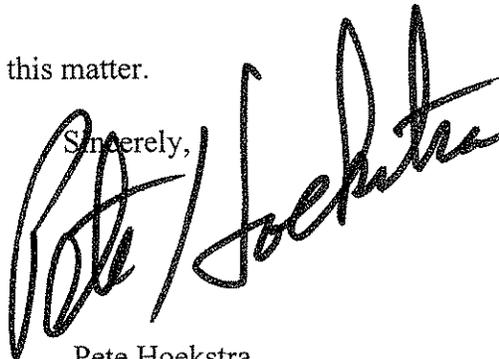
According to the press release issued by MDOT, the justification for the turtle barrier is due to the number of turtle mortalities on this particular segment of U.S. 31. The release also states that turtle mortality studies conducted in 2005 and 2006 indicate that turtle fatalities on U.S. 31 were among the highest recorded nationwide.

Prior to MDOT's announcement on the turtle barrier project, I was not aware that data on traffic-related turtle mortalities was available and that MDOT could be involved in collecting such data. For that reason, I would like learn more about the issue and would appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. How many locations is MDOT currently monitoring for turtle mortalities?
2. How many MDOT employees are currently tasked with collecting data on turtle mortalities?
3. How much money was spent on the study, including employee salaries, to determine the number of turtle mortalities at the intersection of U.S. 31 and the Muskegon River?
4. Is the turtle mortality study available for public distribution? If so, could you please send me a copy?

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra  
Member of Congress



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